for IIST, 81.5 acres of land which is required for setting up of initial infrastructure for IIST has already been acquired.

(c) Good progress has been made for awarding a contract for construction of IIST facilities in a timely manner.

(d) The main objective of IIST is to help ISRO meet its regular requirement of highly qualified young scientists and engineers every year and provide opportunities for high-end research in Space Science & Technology. Towards this, meritorious students are selected every year and imparted education in three specific branches *i.e.*, Avionics, Aerospace Technology and Integrated Masters Degree in applied sciences to meet the specific needs of ISRO. On successful completion of the course, the students would be absorbed in ISRO and would be required to serve ISRO for at least 5 years.

Gandhinagar under JNNURM

1342. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the time when Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was launched in the country;

(b) the salient features of the mission;

(c) whether it is a fact that all the capital cities of other States are included in the JNNURM except Gandhinagar, the Capital of Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Government of India launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005 aiming at reforms driven, fast track, planned development of identified cities with focus on efficiency in urban infrastructure/services delivery mechanism, community participation and accountability of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/Parastatals towards citizen. A sum of Rs. 50,000 crore has been committed as Additional Central Assistance from Government of India under JNNURM for its two sub-missions, namely, Urban Infrastructure & Governance (Sub-Mission-I) and Basic Services for the Urban Poor (Sub-Mission-II) and two omnibus schemes, namely, Urban Infrastructure- Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The Mission is for a period of seven years beginning from 2005-06.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Decision to keep number of cities covered under JNNURM around 60 was taken with the approval of Government. However, cities which are not covered, under Sub-Mission-I Urban Infrastructure and Governance of the JNNURM have been covered under UIDSSMT of JNNURM.